

Message Text

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R 101756Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PO

SUBJECT: TEXTILES - EXTENSION OF EXISTING BILATERAL
AGREEMENT

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

1. AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, ARTICLE 2 PARA 2 OF THE
MULTILATERAL ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN
TEXTILES (MFA) REQUIRES THAT ALL EXISTING TEXTILE RESTRAINT
AGREEMENTS BE BROUGHT INTO CONFORMITY WITH THE MFA BY
APRIL 1, 1975, OR ELSE BE TERMINATED AS OF THAT DATE. OVER
THE PAST NINE MONTHS WE HAVE BEEN IN THE PROCESS OF
BRINGING THESE BILATERALS INTO CONFORMITY BUT BECAUSE OF
THE NUMBER OF SUCH BILATERALS AND THE RESULTING SCHEDULING
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DEMANDS ON THE USG, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BRING THE US/

PORTUGAL BILATERAL INTO CONFORMITY WITH THE MFA BEFORE THE BILATERAL EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 1974.

2. ACCORDINGLY, AS AN INTERIM MEASURE PENDING ESTABLISHMENT OF NEGOTIATING DATES WITH PORTUGAL IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975, THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO PROPOSE THAT THE EXISTING US/PORTUGAL BILATERAL BE EXTENDED TO MARCH 31, 1975. THEREFORE, THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL WITH THE GOP SOONEST AND GAIN ITS CONCURRENCE. UPON RECEIPT OF AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE, THE

DEPARTMENT WILL CABLE AUTHORIZATION TO EXCHANGE THE FOLLOWING NOTE:

EXCELLENCY:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE AGREEMENT CONCERNING TRADE IN COTTON TEXTILES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND PORTUGAL, EFFECTED BY EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON NOVEMBER 17, 1970.

I HAVE FURTHER THE HONOR TO PROPOSE THAT THE TERM OF THIS AGREEMENT BE EXTENDED TO MARCH 31, 1975, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT DURING THE EXTENSION THE LIMITS SHALL BE 25 PERCENT OF THE LIMITS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1974 INCREASED BY 5 PERCENT.

IF THE FOREGOING IS ACCEPTABLE TO YOUR GOVERNMENT, THIS NOTE AND YOUR EXCELLENCY'S NOTE OF ACCEPTANCE ON BEHALF

OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL WILL CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

3. FYI IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES THAT EXTENSION OF BILATERAL BE EFFECTED BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1974 END FYI. INGERSOLL

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